

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Application

Claims 1, 3-4, 9-11, 15-28, 38-41 are pending. Claims 29-37 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 3-4, 9-11, 15-28, 38-41 are examined.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The decision by the BPAI has reversed the 103(a) obviousness rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 9-11, 15-28, 39-41 based on Krall and Ricci and claims 1, 3-4, 9-11, 15-28, 38-41 over Krall, Ricci, and Hechenberger. The reasons are set forth in the BPAI decision filed on 9/9/09. Claims 1, 3-4, 9-11, 15-28, 38-41 are now free of the prior art and in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Dahna S. Pasternak on 11/10/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claims 29-37.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong S. Chong whose telephone number is (571)-272-8513. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, SREENI PADMANABHAN can be reached on (571)-272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Yong S. Chong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1627